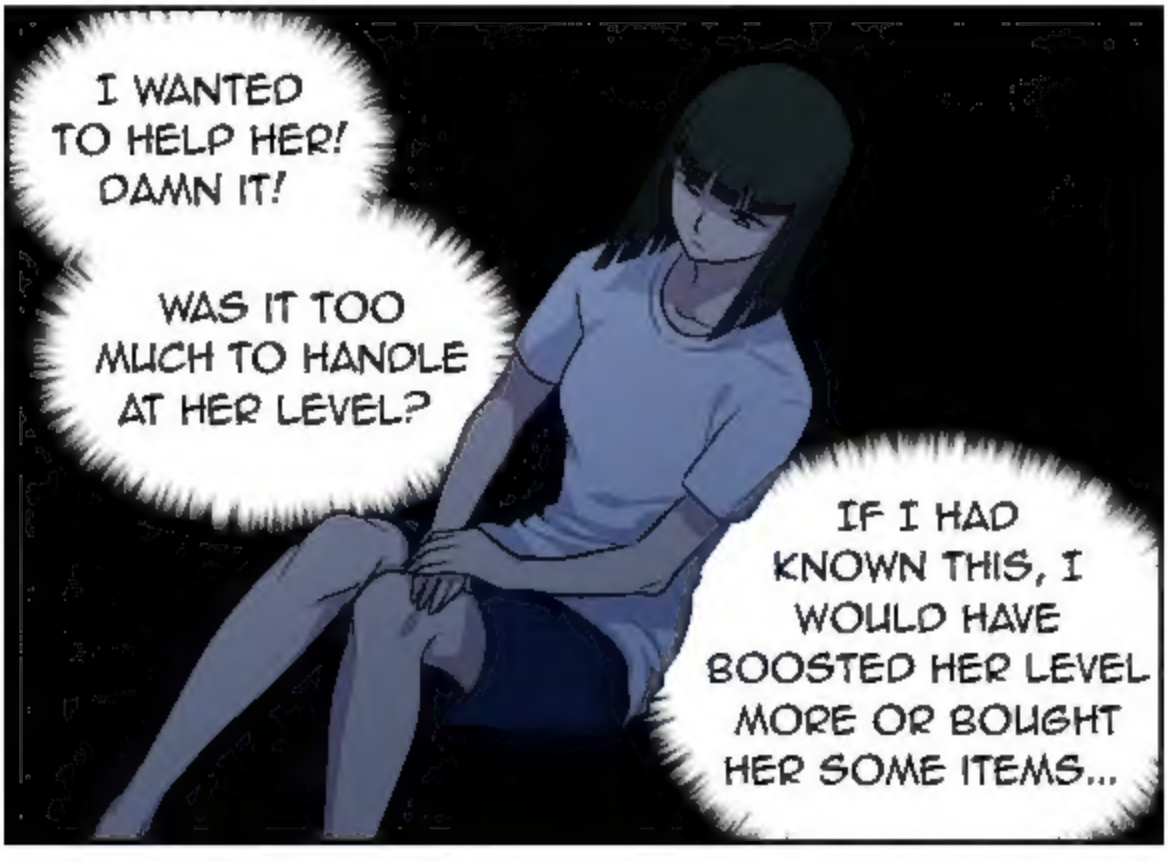
THE GAMER

STORY BY SANGYOUNG SEONG
ILLUST BY SANG-A

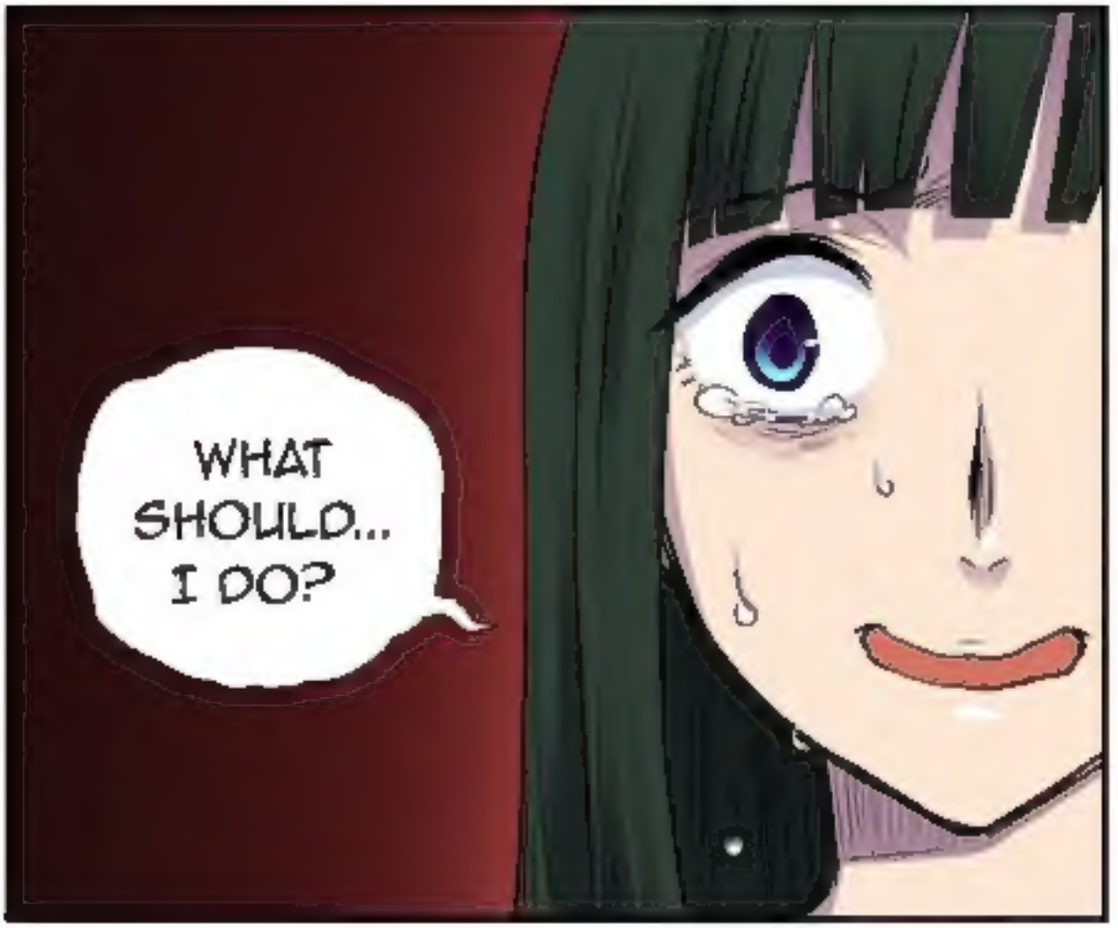

I WANTED TO HELP HER! DAMN IT!
WAS IT TOO MUCH TO HANDLE AT HER LEVEL?
IF I HAD KNOWN THIS, I WOULD HAVE BOOSTED HER LEVEL MORE OR BOUGHT HER SOME ITEMS...

CLENCH
YOU WEREN'T DREAMING, WERE YOU?

NO.
I CAN...
STILL FEEL MYSELF GETTING TORN TO PIECES AND DEVOURED.

BUT THE STRANGE THING IS, IT DIDN'T HURT.

MY BODY WAS BEING RIPPED APART AND EATEN...
AND YET IT DIDN'T HURT.
THAT WAS THE CRAZIEST PART OF THE WHOLE THING...


WHAT SHOULD... I DO?

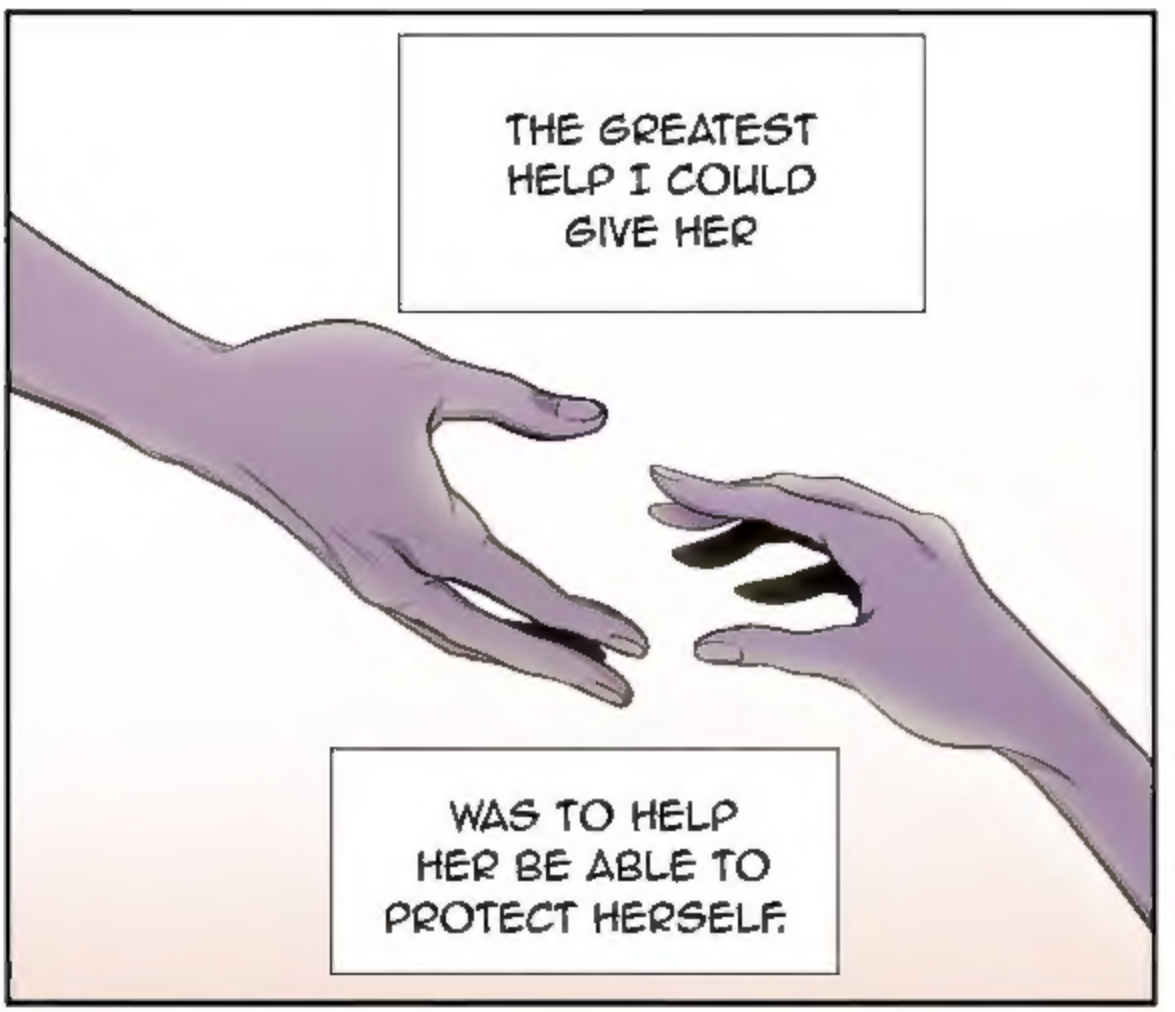
YOU NEED TO GET STRONGER.

YOU'VE GOT TO GET STRONG ENOUGH SO THAT YOU WON'T DIE.

"I'LL PROTECT YOU."

I DIDN'T TELL HER ANY NONSENSE LIKE THIS..

SINCE I CAN'T PROTECT HER FOREVER.

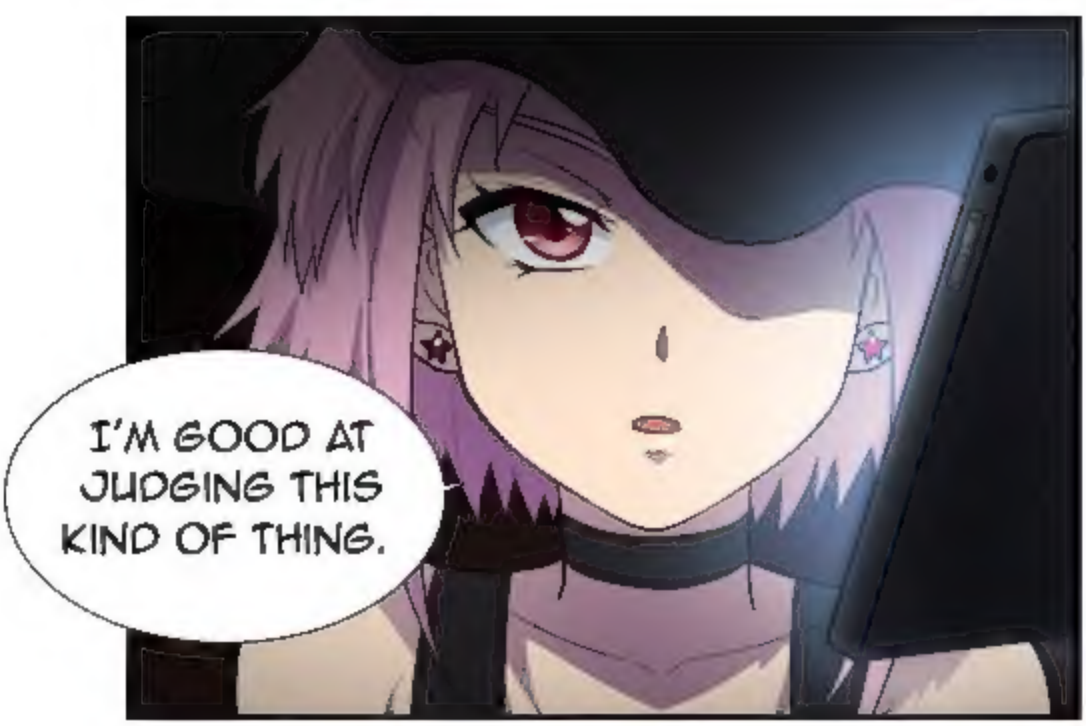

THE GREATEST HELP I COULD GIVE HER
WAS TO HELP HER BE ABLE TO PROTECT HERSELF.

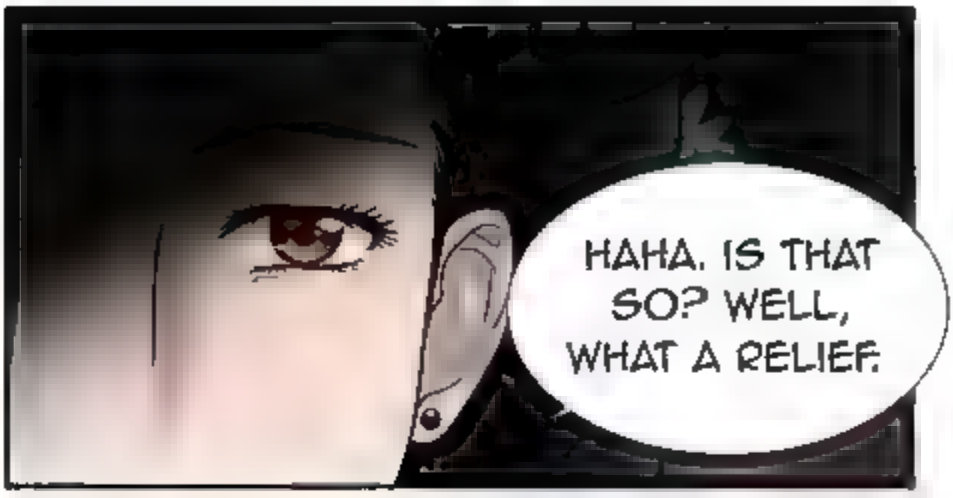
AH, SO
THIS IS IT.

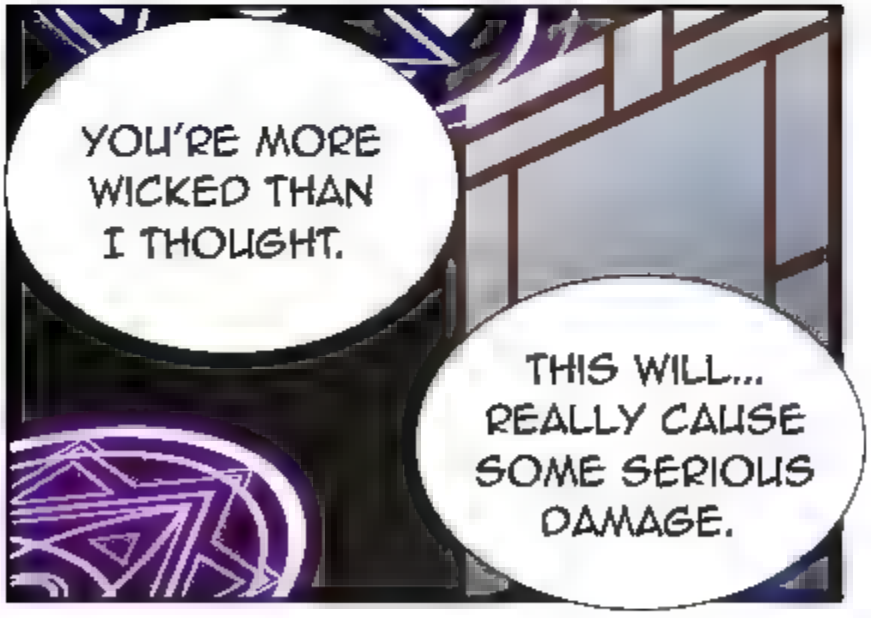
LOOKS LIKE EVEN A GREAT WITCH LIKE YOU IS HAVING TROUBLE WITH THAT, HUH?

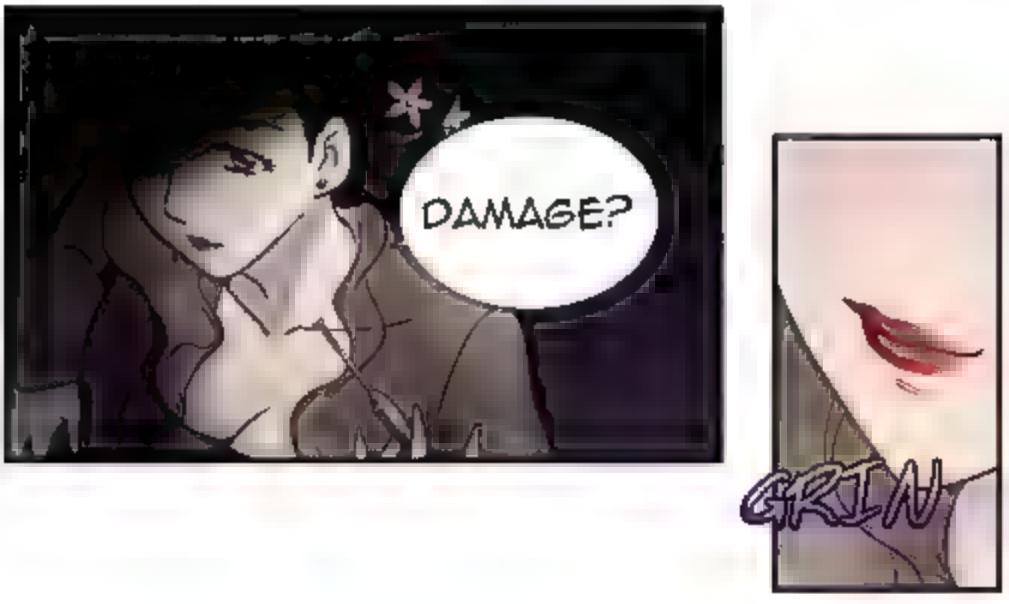
I'M A FIGHTING EXPERT.

DON'T PEOPLE CALL YOU " MAGE "?
THAT'S BECAUSE I'M A " MAGE " OF FIGHTING.
BUT STILL...

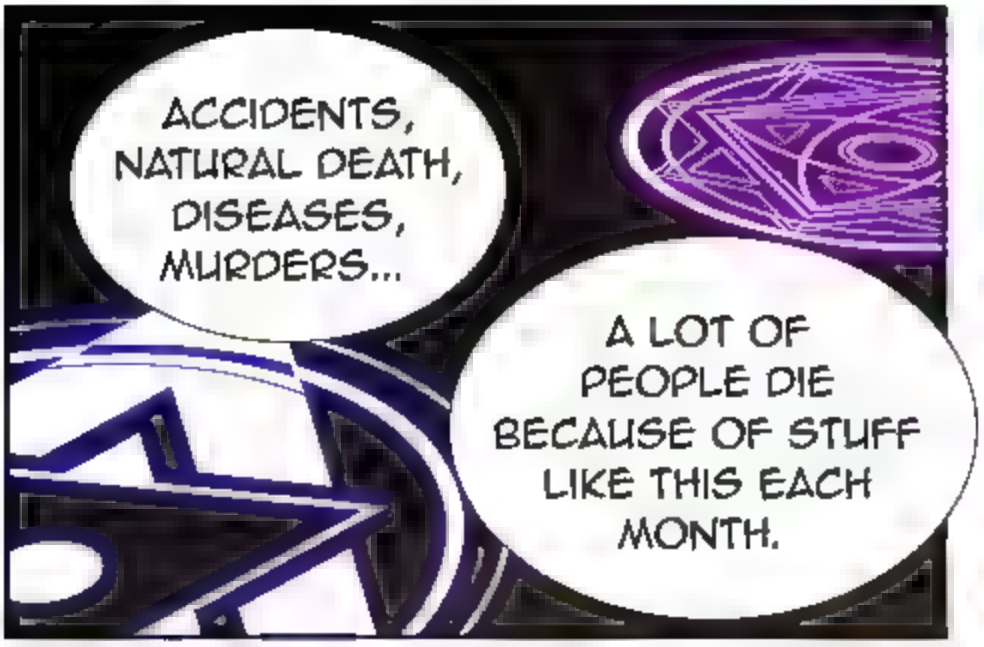

I'M GOOD AT JUDGING THIS KIND OF THING.

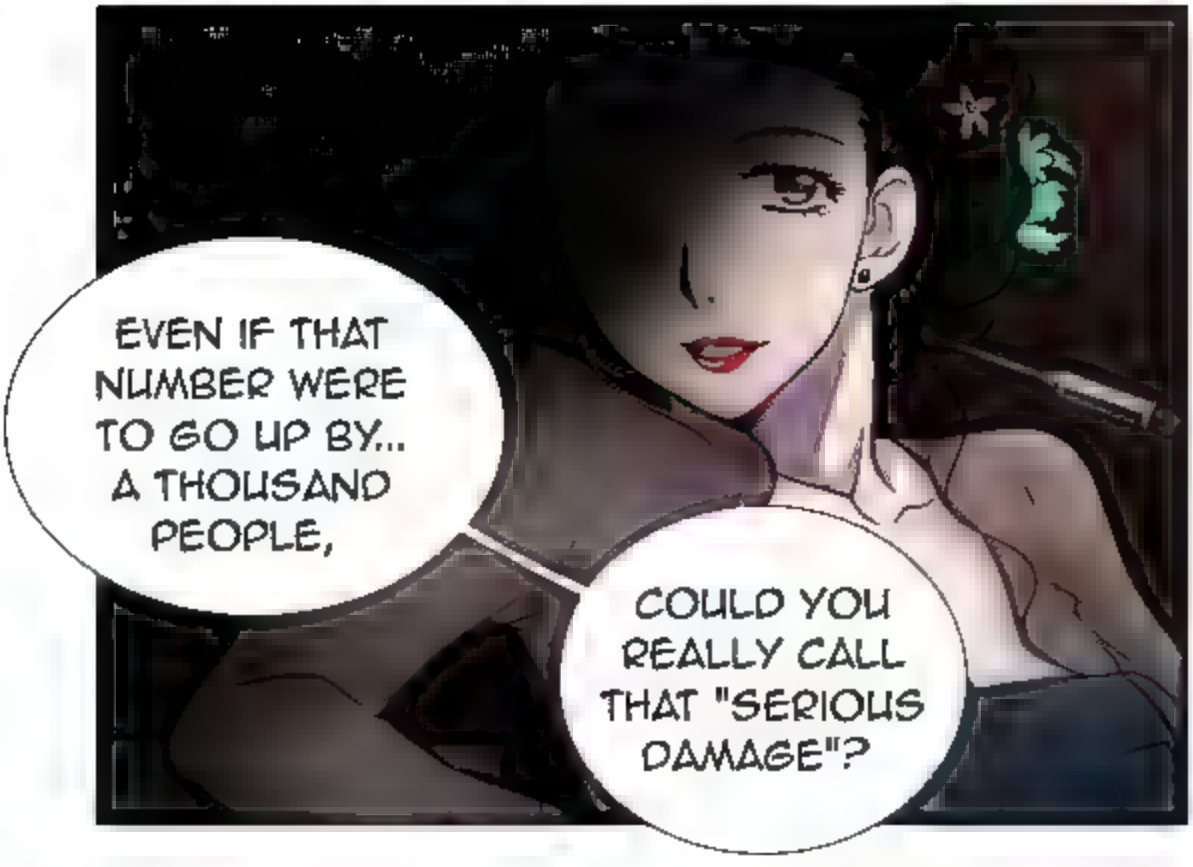

HAHA. IS THAT SO? WELL, WHAT A RELIEF.


YOU'RE MORE WICKED THAN I THOUGHT.
THIS WILL... REALLY CAUSE SOME SERIOUS DAMAGE.

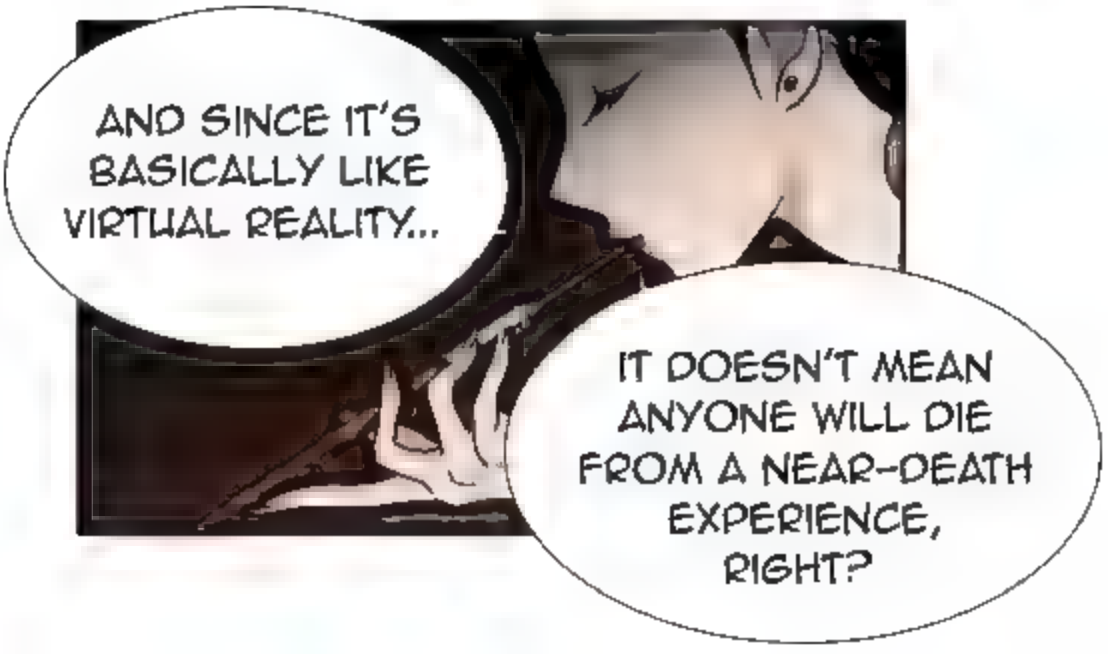

DAMAGE?
GRIN

DID YOU KNOW THAT 25,000 PEOPLE DIE IN THIS COUNTRY KNOWN AS "KOREA" EVERY MONTH?
I'VE NEVER HEARD THAT BEFORE. BUT WHY?

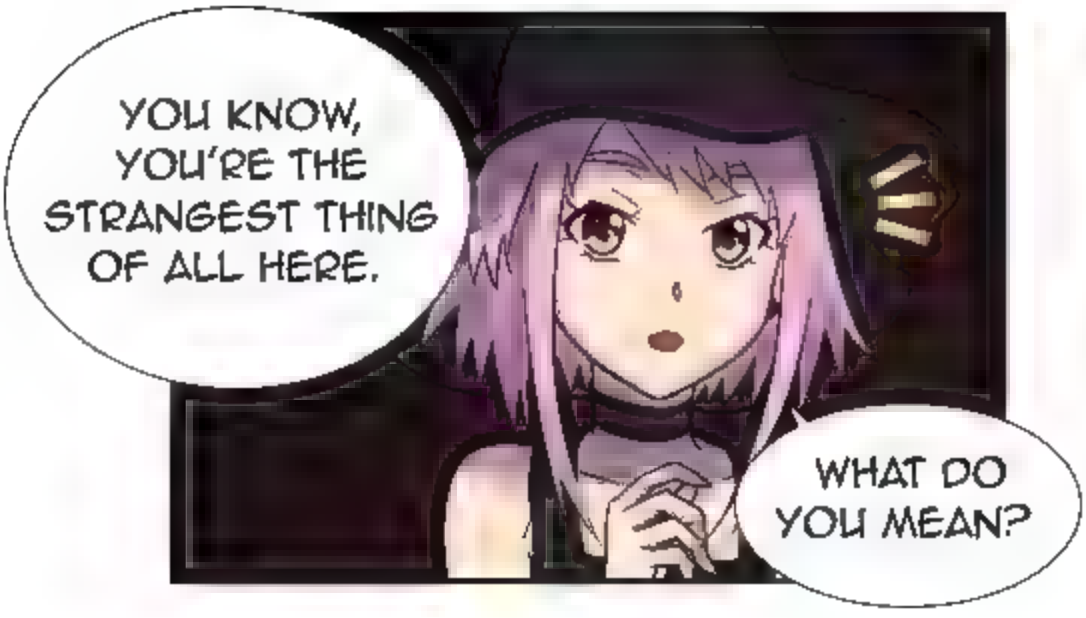

ACCIDENTS, NATURAL DEATH, DISEASES, MURDERS...
A LOT OF PEOPLE DIE BECAUSE OF STUFF LIKE THIS EACH MONTH.


EVEN IF THAT NUMBER WERE TO GO UP BY... A THOUSAND PEOPLE,
COULD YOU REALLY CALL THAT "SERIOUS DAMAGE"?

NO ONE WILL EVEN CARE. SINCE IT'S JUST A THOUSAND PEOPLE.
IN FACT, IT MAY NOT EVEN BE THAT MANY.
A THOUSAND IS REALLY JUST A HIGH ESTIMATE.
KOREANS ARE MENTALLY VERY STRONG. SO THERE'S A CHANCE THAT NO ONE MIGHT DIE.


AND SINCE IT'S BASICALLY LIKE VIRTUAL REALITY...
IT DOESN'T MEAN ANYONE WILL DIE FROM A NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCE, RIGHT?

WELL, THAT SUCKS... I DIDN'T THINK YOU WOULD USE THE SOFTWARE.
THEY SAY IT'S THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY.


YOU KNOW, YOU'RE THE STRANGEST THING OF ALL HERE.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

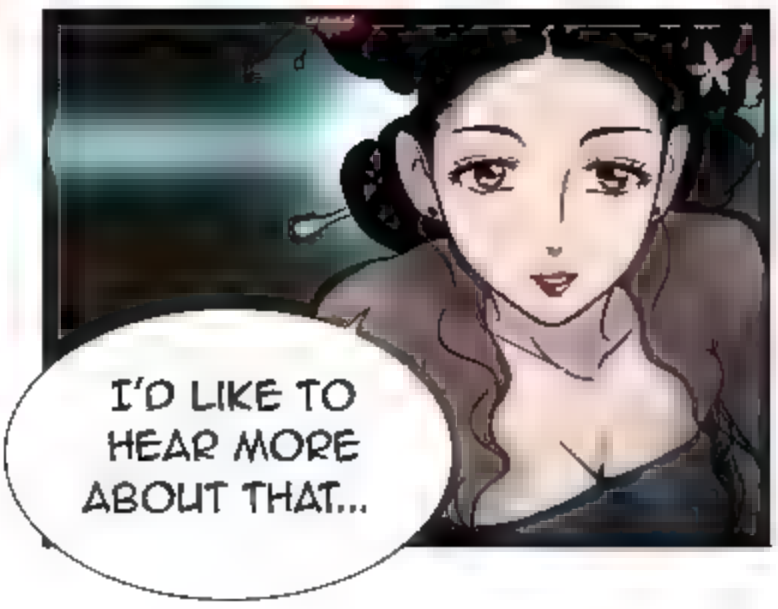
WELL, YOU DON'T REALLY HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THIS.
AND EVEN IF THERE ARE SOME OUT THERE GATHERING IDEA POWERS.
KOREA IS STILL DAN UI GUILD'S TERRITORY.
THEY'LL TAKE CARE OF THINGS.

THEY'RE PROBABLY ALREADY UP TO SOMETHING.

I KNOW.
BUT THAT'S BECAUSE THERE'S SOMETHING THEY HAVE TO LOOK INTO.

WELL... I THINK THEY BASICALLY ALREADY KNOW WHAT THEY NEED TO KNOW.

IS THAT SO?


I'D LIKE TO HEAR MORE ABOUT THAT...

WHAT DO I GET IN RETURN?

NO.
FORGET IT.
IT DOESN'T SEEM VERY IMPORTANT.

SUIT YOURSELF.

THE GAMER

HUFF
HUFF

WHAT'S YOUR LEVEL?
36...

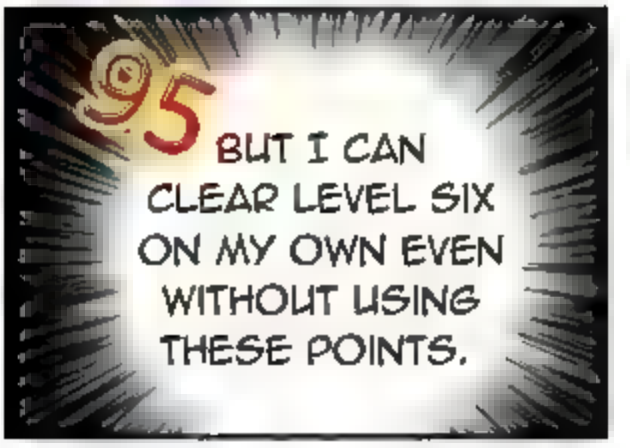
GOOD.

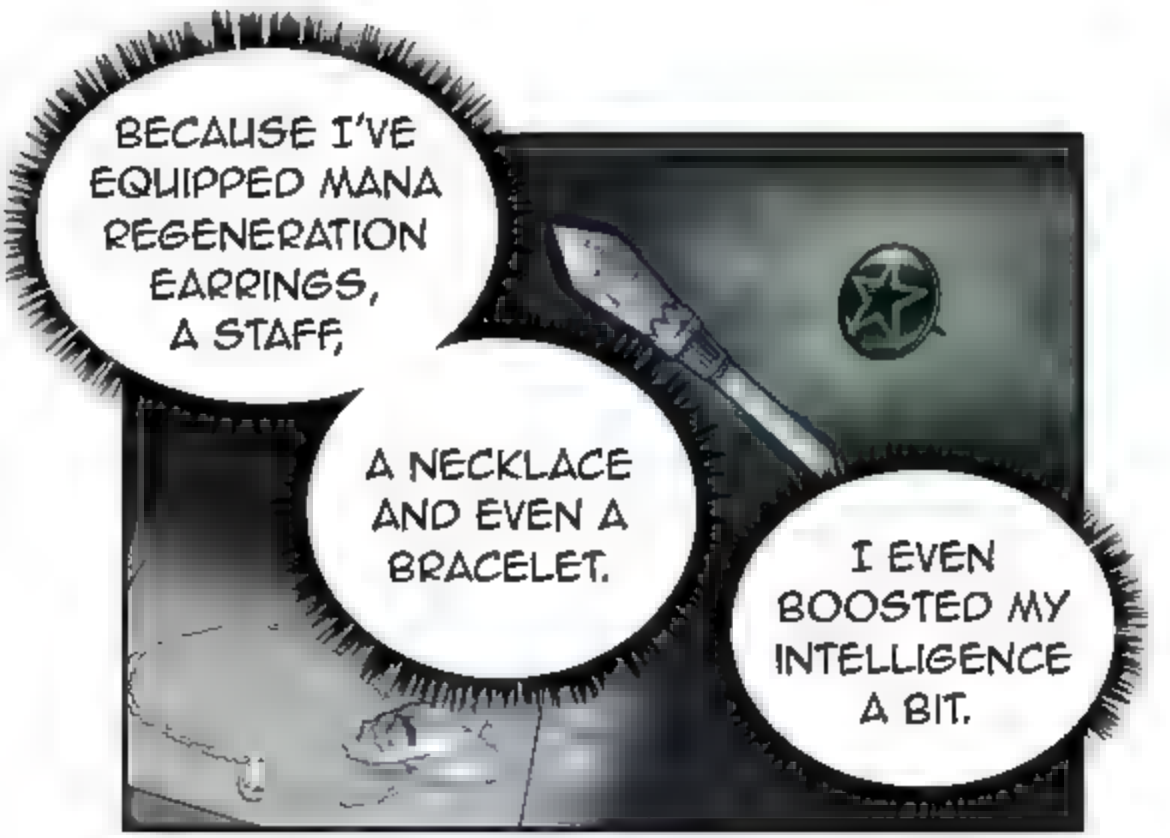
AFTER THAT, I ENTERED "THE GREAT LABYRINTH ERA" DUNGEON I CREATED AND PUT HER HERE AND THERE.

THAT'S WHEN I REALIZED THAT THIS DUNGEON DOESN'T HAVE ANY LEVELS BEYOND LEVEL SIX.
IT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE I ONLY EVER GET TO LEVEL SIX.

SO BASICALLY, I CAN'T CREATE WHAT I HAVEN'T EXPERIENCED.

I'M CURRENTLY AT LEVEL 51.
I'VE GOT 95 POINTS LEFT.

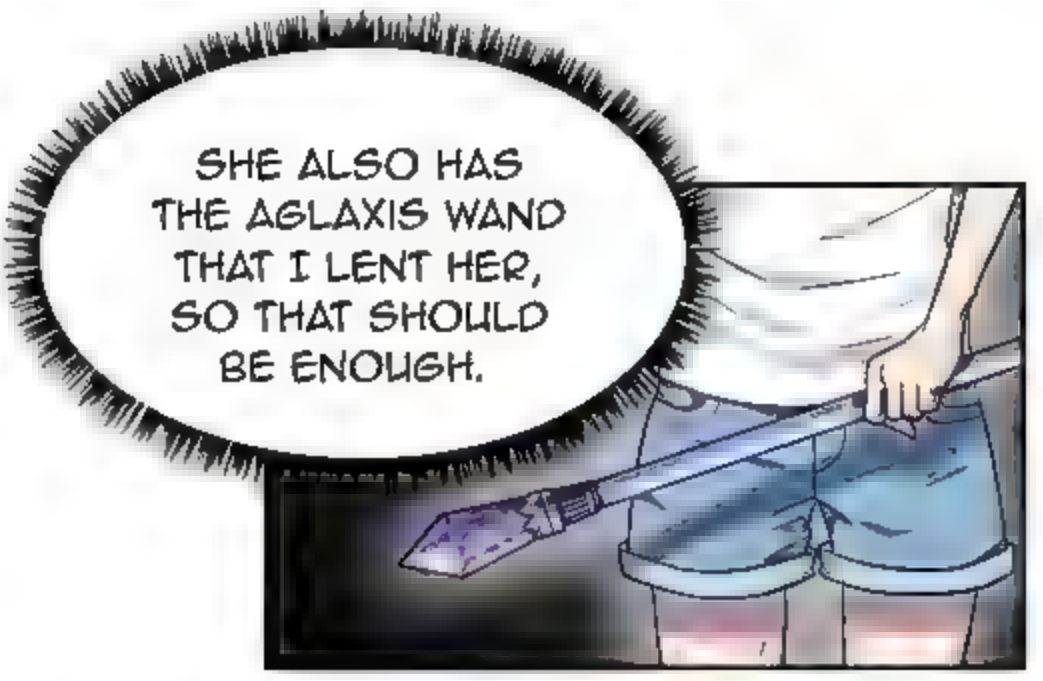

95
BUT I CAN CLEAR LEVEL SIX ON MY OWN EVEN WITHOUT USING THESE POINTS.


BECAUSE I'VE EQUIPPED MANA REGENERATION EARRINGS, A STAFF,
A NECKLACE AND EVEN A BRACELET.
I EVEN BOOSTED MY INTELLIGENCE A BIT.

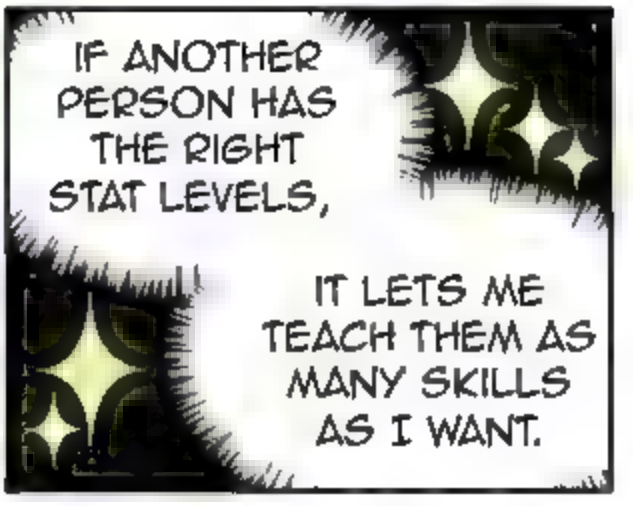
MY MANA REGENERATION RATE HAS GONE UP BY A WHOPPING 3458!
ANYWAY, THE IMPORTANT THING RIGHT NOW IS PREZ.

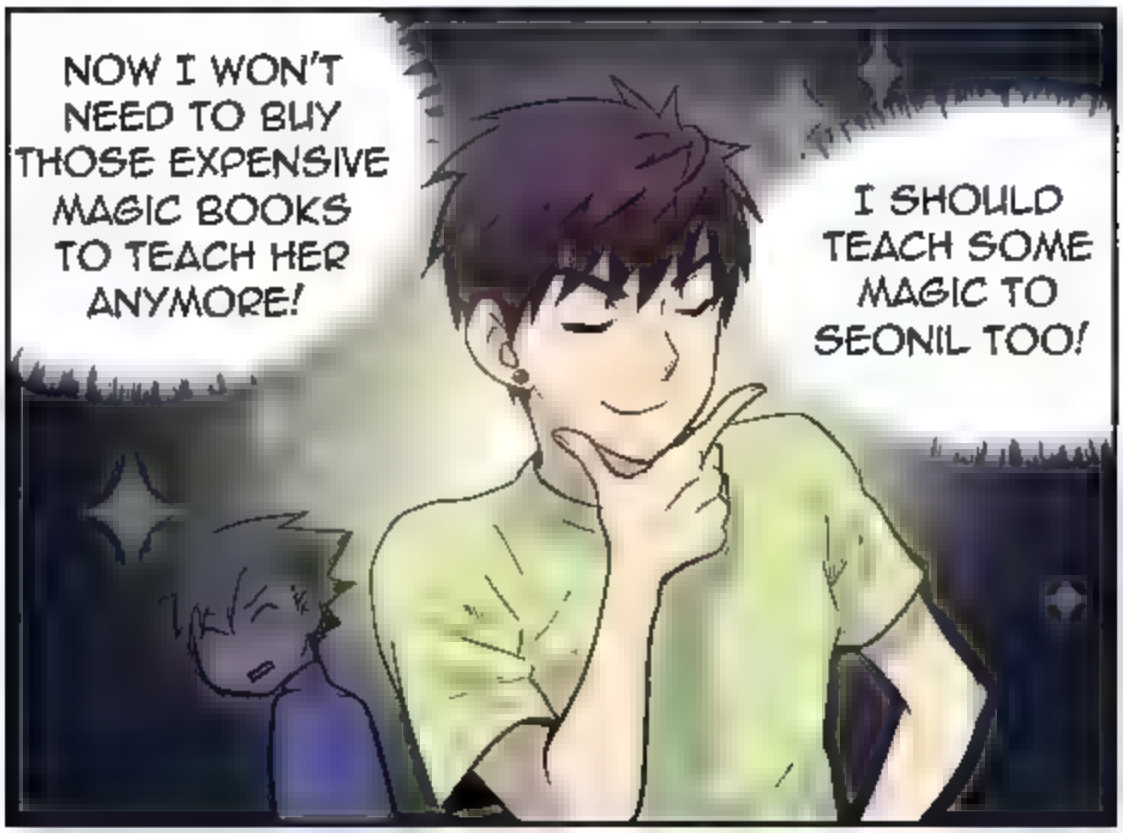
〈CLASS LEADER〉
YUJIN KIM
LEVEL 36

SHE'S AROUND THE SAME LEVEL THAT I USED TO BE.
PLUS SHE'S LEARNED TO FLY, INFINITE MANA ARROW AND MANA SHIELD.
SO SHE SHOULDN'T HAVE ANY TROUBLE CLEARING LEVEL ONE.

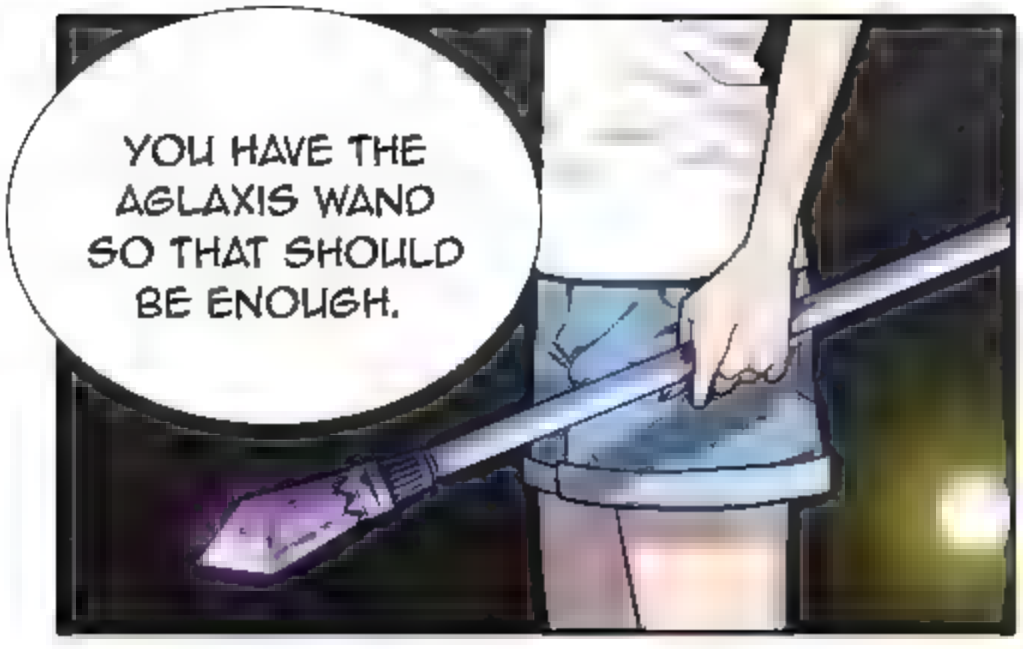

SHE ALSO HAS THE AGLAXIS WAND THAT I LENT HER, SO THAT SHOULD BE ENOUGH.

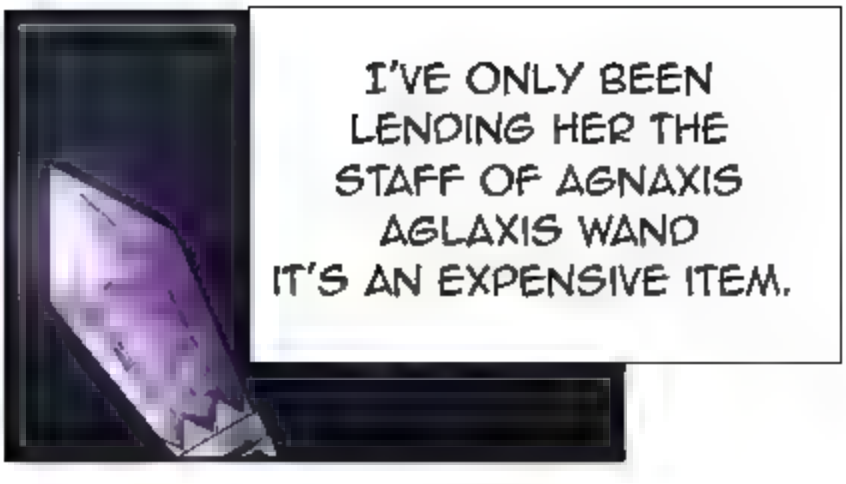
AND I'VE LEARNED THE "TEACH" SKILL.

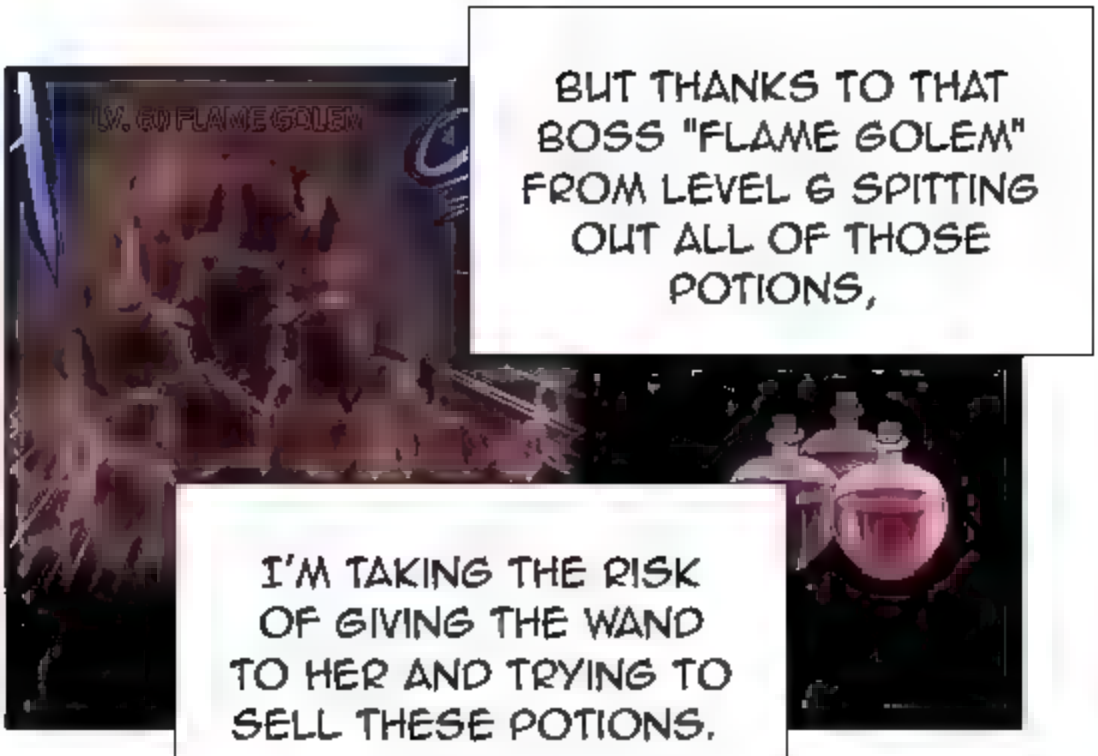

IF ANOTHER PERSON HAS THE RIGHT STAT LEVELS,
IT LETS ME TEACH THEM AS MANY SKILLS AS I WANT.


NOW I WON'T NEED TO BUY THOSE EXPENSIVE MAGIC BOOKS TO TEACH HER ANYMORE!
I SHOULD TEACH SOME MAGIC TO SEONIL TOO!

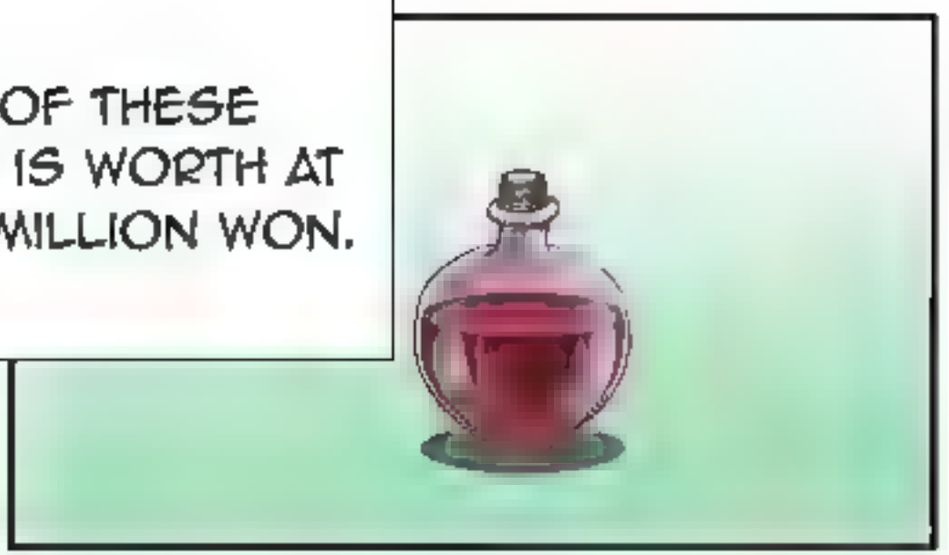
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT DYING NOW.
SINCE YOUR LEVEL SHOULD HAVE TRIPLED BY NOW.

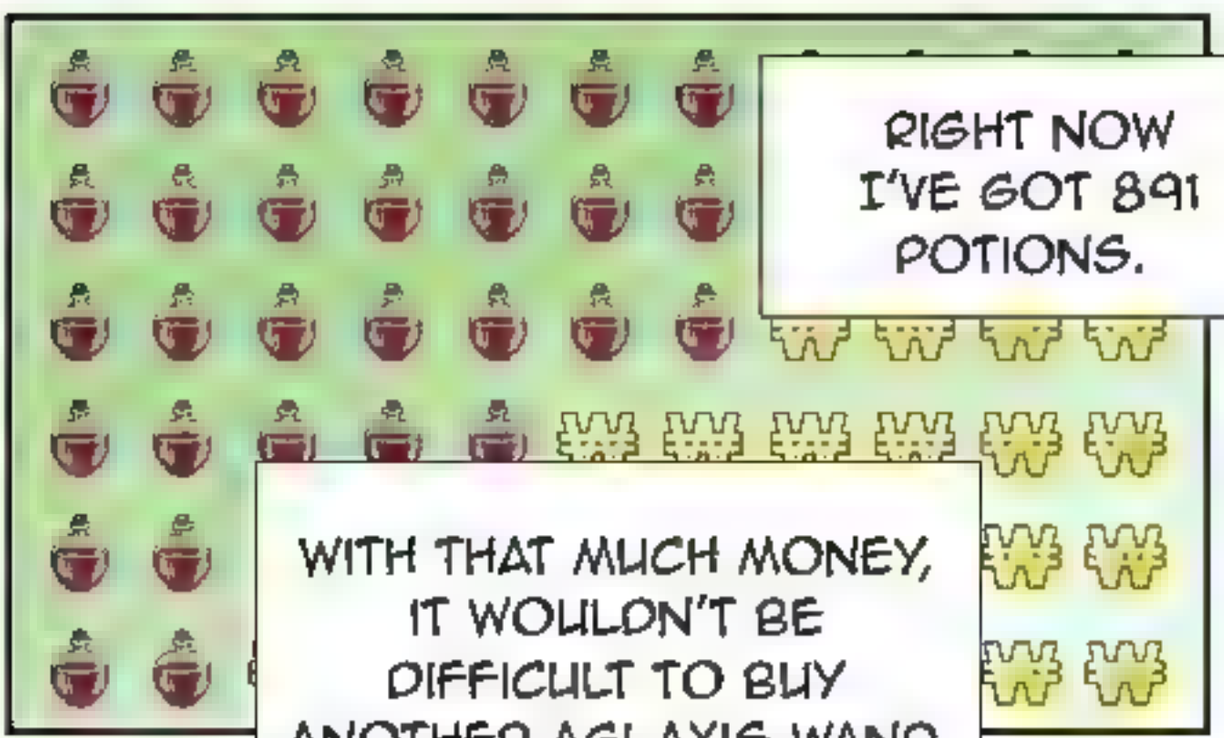

YOU HAVE THE AGLAXIS WAND SO THAT SHOULD BE ENOUGH.


I'VE ONLY BEEN LENDING HER THE STAFF OF AGNAXIS AGLAXIS WAND IT'S AN EXPENSIVE ITEM.


BUT THANKS TO THAT BOSS "FLAME GOLEM" FROM LEVEL 6 SPITTING OUT ALL OF THOSE POTIONS,
I'M TAKING THE RISK OF GIVING THE WAND TO HER AND TRYING TO SELL THESE POTIONS.

EACH OF THESE POTIONS IS WORTH AT LEAST 10 MILLION WON.





THIS LOOKS EXPENSIVE.

HM? IT'S ONLY AROUND 60 MILLION WON.
60 MILLION WON!?

...I'M STARTING TO SCARE MYSELF, SAYING "ONLY" 60 MILLION WON.

BUT THAT'S WHAT THIS ENVIRONMENT DOES TO YOU.
I DIDN'T KNOW THAT THIS...WAS SO VALUABLE.
IT'S LIKE THE COST OF A CAR.
EVEN THE COST OF ONE CAR... IS PRETTY EASY TO EARN.
D-DO YOU REALLY MAKE THAT MUCH MONEY IN THIS "ABYSS" PLACE?

WELL, I DO.
NOT OTHER PEOPLE.

SHOULD I FORGET ABOUT UNIVERSITY AND JUST WORK IN THE ABYSS...?
NOW SHE'S REALLY LOST IT.

COME ON. DON'T TALK LIKE THAT. THIS PLACE IS SO DANGEROUS.
AH. I KNOW.
I'VE ALREADY DIED ONCE.

THAT WAS JUST A NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCE,
BUT YOU COULD VERY EASILY DIE FOR REAL.
ALTHOUGH I ONLY SAY THAT BECAUSE I'VE LOST ALL FEAR BECAUSE OF MY GAMER'S SPIRIT SKILLS.

I'VE JUST BEEN LUCKY ENOUGH TO MAKE A GOOD LIVING IN THE ABYSS,
BUT IT WOULD BE HARD FOR YOU.

GOT IT, PREZ?

CALL ME BY MY NAME.
WHY DO YOU CALL ME "PREZ"?

BECAUSE YOU'RE THE CLASS LEADER.

WELL STARTING NOW, CALL ME BY MY REAL NAME.

DO I REALLY HAVE TO...

LINE Webtoon